



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - February 21, 2002**

- ***In the West***, precipitation is returning to the ***Pacific Northwest***, but the remainder of the region is in need of additional moisture to ensure adequate spring runoff and summer water supplies. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather in ***California and Arizona*** continues to promote spring fieldwork and small grain development.
- ***On the Plains***, some light precipitation is developing across ***northern Texas***. However, unfavorably dry conditions persist throughout the ***High Plains' winter wheat areas*** from ***Montana to western Texas***, with the most severe drought affecting the ***Montana High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, breezy, cooler air is overspreading the region, accompanied by snow showers. Although recent rain provided beneficial soil moisture recharge, many fields and feedlots are muddy.
- ***In the South***, pastures and winter grains in the ***southern Atlantic region*** are benefiting from recent topsoil moisture improvements, although long-term drought persists. Soil moisture remains adequate to locally excessive from the ***Delta westward***.

**Outlook:** A cold outbreak will begin to affect the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest*** during the weekend, then overspread other areas ***east of the Rockies*** early next week. The sudden transition to cold weather is likely to further stress the ***Plains' winter wheat and Midwestern livestock***. Significant precipitation will be confined to the ***Northwest and Florida***, although snow showers are expected in the ***Great Lakes region***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 26 - March 2 calls for below-normal temperatures in most areas from the ***Plains to the East Coast***, and warmer-than-normal temperatures in ***California and Arizona***. Above-normal precipitation is forecast across much of the ***South*** and along the ***Atlantic Seaboard***, but mostly dry weather is expected elsewhere, including the ***Plains, Midwest, and Southwest***.

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